Clearance to Bateshwar Sthan Pump Canal Scheme

2780. SHRI LALU PRASAD : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has submitted "Bateshwar Sthan Pump Canal Scheme* phase I under AIBP at an estimated cost of Rs. 103.10 crore to the Central Water Commission;

(b) whether Government propose to sanction this scheme; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) The Government of Bihar submitted "Bateshwar Sthan Pump Canal Scheme" for Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for Rs. 103.10 crore for the year 2002-2003 to the Field Office of Central Water Commission at Patna. The same was examined and returned to the State Government with comments. Projects recommended by the Central Water Commission confirming to the norms of AIBP are considered for providing CLA under AIBP on year to year basis.

Reasons for not reaching Islamabad in time

2781. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian officials/representatives failed to reach Islamabad for Indus talks in time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for not making advance booking of flights in Dubai to catch a flight to Islamabad?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) The Indian officials/representatives reached Islamabad in time for the 88th meeting of the Permenent Indus Commission held during 4th to 6th February, 2003.

(c) Advance booking of flights for reaching Pakistan *via* Dubai were made prior to the start of journey from Delhi.